



**ESSA Advisory Committee**  
**June 10, 2019; Townsend Bldg., Dover, DE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Committee members present:** Sybil Baker, Dana Bowe, Sarah Bucic, Heather Collins, Tammy Croce, John Marinucci, Mark McKenzie, Jon Sheehan, Deborah Stevens, Ashlee Upp, Dover High School student

**Committee members absent:** Matthew Burrows, James DeChene, Candice Fifer, Julie Johnson, Anastasia Kynard, Shawn Larrimore, Kendall Massett, Laura Sturgeon, Kimberly Williams, Patrik Williams

**Guest:** Todd Klawinski, Caesar Rodney School District

**Others present:** Jenna Ahner, Christine Alois, Bob Bennett, Theresa Bennett, Shannon Holston, Chantel Janiszewski, Lindsay Lewis, Chuck Longfellow, Jon Neubauer, Patricia Zielen, Lizzie Lewis Zubaca

**OPENING**

- Deputy Secretary Christine Alois thanked everyone in attendance and called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
- For introduction, members participated in an opening activity.
- Alois noted feedback and participation is welcomed during the meeting and will assist in creating future agendas.
- Public comment welcomed prior to conclusion of the meeting.

**APPROVAL of FEBRUARY 26, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

The committee unanimously approved the minutes from the February 26, 2019 meeting (motioned by Sybil Baker, seconded by Tammy Croce).

**REPORT CARD ENHANCEMENTS and FEEDBACK**

Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) staff, Lindsay Lewis, Operations Support Team, gave a brief overview of the DDOE website for the state report card and provided an update on the following topics:

- Map integration
- Language translation
- Report Card print PDF
- Story box/guiding questions/DDOE supports
- LEA personalization
- Suppression
- Visual enhancements

Following updates, using the handout, *District/School Finder and Options Tool*, the committee participated in an activity. The committee was asked to look at websites of two states and comment on what features related to their school finder

tools that they liked or did not like, what options they would like to see on Delaware's website, and to consider if someone was new to Delaware, what information would be important to have about a district/school.

Additional comments and/or questions are welcomed and can be sent via contact link on the DDOE report card at <https://reportcard.doe.k12.de.us/> or to Lindsay Lewis at [lindsay.lewis@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:lindsay.lewis@doe.k12.de.us).

## **ESSA and STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Draft definition of stakeholder engagement provided – “Intentional, inclusive, community-specific outreach to involve parents, caretakers, families and communities as partners in education, including but not limited to: decision-making, program evaluation, and participation in activities and services that improve student outcomes and strengthen relationships and communities.”

The department would like to identify all possible avenues to reach all stakeholders to communicate ESSA to families and communities for better understanding and collaboration. Several ideas were shared for follow up.

## **ESSA AMENDMENTS UPDATE**

Chantel Janiszewski, DDOE Office of Performance Management, provided an update for the following ESSA amendment requests.

- CSI/TSI-1 Identification Cycle Updates: Upon US ED notification that this would not be allowable according to law, the department rescinded the request to change the timeline for identifying the next cohort of CSI and TSI schools from November 2021 to November 2022. The next CSI/TSI-1 identification cycle remains November 2021.
- Statewide Science and Social Studies Assessments: Waive use in accountability model calculations until 2019-2020 due to technical quality studies not due to be completed until January 2020. US ED approved this amendment.
- Amendment to clarify language for identified TSI schools referring to a 5 percent cap, which Delaware does not do. The language referring to this was removed. Revised language was approved by US ED.

## **INNOVATIVE PRACTICES IN ASSESSMENT**

New committee:

Alois advised of a new committee being formed, the Assessment Advisory Committee, that will meet quarterly to stay informed about federal requirements and local and national innovative assessment practices. The committee will discuss and provide feedback on assessment practices in Delaware. Topics to be addressed include, but are not limited to the following:

- Federal assessment pilot
- Facts and fallacies around current and potential assessments
- Current implementation practices
- Components of a Balanced Assessment System
- DPAS Component V

Alois provided a list of potential members (*presentation slide #8*) and asked the committee to consider other suggestions to include as possible members. Suggestion was made to include representatives from higher education and career fields.

DDOE assessment updates:

Theresa Bennett, DDOE Director, Office of Assessment, provided updates on the following:

- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) scheduled time: Bennett highlighted DE Smarter ELA/literacy and mathematics testing times and estimated testing times for Smarter summative assessments (*presentation slides #10-12*).
- Changes to SBAC test format grades 3-5: Bennett highlighted changes made to reduce testing time such as removing short-answer, brief writing items and items associated with a performance task. This reduces testing time on average of 30 minutes.
- DPAS Measure Bs: Pilot for ELA in 2018-2019 to test before and after a unit of instruction. One benefit is to reduce end-of-year testing.
- State-provided interim assessments and resources: Interim assessments assist educators to check where students are in their learning, reflect on what is working and what may need improving, and connect educators with colleagues and resources such as the teacher-created and approved Digital Library.
- Positive feedback: Bennett shared comments for both Smarter ELA blueprint change and on the new Alternate Assessment from educators.

## **ADDRESSING the WHOLE CHILD – TITLE IV**

Bob Bennett, DDOE Title Programs, stressed the funding from the Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant is for creating activities to support the whole child that focus on the three basic areas: well-rounded education, safe and healthy students and the effective use of technology in the classroom.

Bennett shared some examples of activities from Delaware districts/charters and noted other examples of state-level activities, such as, supporting trauma awareness month and school resource officer/constable trauma training. Other possibilities in the works could be non-competitive arts grant and creating a toolkit for family engagement. Additional examples of activities found on slides # 91-23 of presentation.

At this time, Bennett introduced guest speaker Todd Klawinski, environmental education specialist with the Caesar Rodney School District, to share his experience with Title IV in action. Klawinski provided the Committee with a handout, *The GREEN TEAM at Caesar Rodney School District*, identifying the three categories to promote a 21<sup>st</sup> century school by creating and implementing an environmental impact program, environmental education and a healthy school. Title IV funds were used to pilot a new district-level position, the environment education specialist. Klawinski, other Caesar Rodney staff and students have an active role in hands-on environmental activities to address Next Generation Science Standards, serving as stewards of their environment, and general health and well-being.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No formal public comment was received.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Continue to implement ESSA to its full potential to support continuous improvement.
- Convene the new Assessment Advisory Committee.
- Identify additional avenues to expand communications and effectively involve families.
- Stay in touch with one another with information, updates and questions.
- Take some time to check out schools to see ESSA in action, in Fall 2019.
- Poll committee members to identify best timeframe to hold ESSA meetings.

## CONCLUSION

- Meeting minutes will be sent to committee members.
- The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.